

# Newborn Screening Update

Michigan Newborn Screening Program

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## Biohazard Stickers



**There have been many questions about the new postal requirement for biohazard stickers.** Postal regulations require dried clinical specimens to have two barriers between the blood specimen and the outside of the envelope. The overlay flap of the screening card is considered the first (inner) barrier. The second (outer) barrier is the mailing envelope. **The biohazard sticker must be placed on the overlay flap of the screening card.**

Please review the following regarding the use of biohazard stickers:

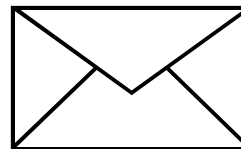
- **Do not use the sticker to close the flap.** The sticker should be on top of the flap only.
- Stickers can be applied to the flap at any time prior to or after blood collection at the convenience of the submitter.
- New first sample "Blue" cards have been ordered with the biohazard logo preprinted on them. These cards are anticipated to be in circulation in the next 3-4 months.
- Repeat sample "pink" cards with the preprinted biohazard logo are already in circulation. Please check you supply of pink cards to determine if the sticker is necessary.

Biohazard stickers are being sent with all card orders. To obtain stickers for your existing supply of cards contact Valerie Klasko by telephone at (517) 241-5583, fax (517) 241-5531 or email [klasko@michigan.gov](mailto:klasko@michigan.gov).

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## Are Your Envelopes Sealed?



The Newborn Screening Laboratory has reported that they are receiving unsealed envelopes on a daily basis. The current envelopes are not self sealing. The seal on the envelope must be wetted to activate the glue. Several envelopes received by the lab, have had the glue intact (no seals are wetted).

When this happens, we must contact the submitter to determine which specimens were in the envelope and if they all arrived in the unsealed envelope. This involves significant time and effort for both the Newborn Screening Program and the submitter. In addition, treatment could be delayed in an affected infant resulting in severe impairment or death.

**Please make sure all envelopes containing newborn screening cards are securely sealed before putting them in the mail!**

### Contacts

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NBS Accountant  
Valerie Klasko  
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# Frequently Asked Questions



## **As long as the baby is greater than 24 hours of age, does the exact age in hours really matter?**

Absolutely!!! The screening test for congenital hypothyroidism uses a cut off that is based on the age of the infant in hours. An infant who is 24 hours of age has a different normal range than one who is 37 hours.

**Incorrect documentation of the data necessary to determine the infants age could result in missing an affected infant.**

## **What do you mean by “batching” specimens?**

Batching refers to holding onto newborn screening specimens until you have group of them to send off together. The Newborn Screening Laboratory reports that some envelopes contain specimens with many different collection dates. Batching is also suspected when the lab receives several envelopes on the same day from a submitter that contain specimens with a wide range of collection dates. **Newborn screening specimens should be mailed out each day, including Saturdays.**

## **What is the procedure for an NICU to have negative screening results sent directly to the unit?**

NICU's have the option to have negative screening results sent directly back to the unit. This is currently done by regular mail. If a unit chooses this option, the following steps must be completed.

1. Use the 3-digit hospital code for your hospital and enter the number “1” after the two preprinted zeros.
2. Contact Denise Pleger by phone at (517)335-8588 or email [plegerd@michigan.gov](mailto:plegerd@michigan.gov) to confirm the address where results are to be sent.

## **What is the procedure for requesting newborn screening results?**

Newborn Screening results will be provided upon written request. The following information must be listed on agency letterhead and faxed to (517) 335-9419.

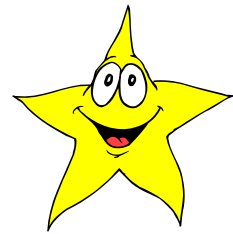
- ♦ Infant name
- ♦ Date of birth
- ♦ Mother's name
- ♦ Hospital of birth
- ♦ Fax number and contact person to receive results

Contact the Newborn Screening Follow Up Office at (517) 335-9205 with questions about this procedure.

## Star Submitters for 2003

The last quarter of 2003 showed a dramatic decrease in the number of unsatisfactory specimens from 858 to 398 statewide. This is great news for our submitters and for all Michigan babies. A combination of your hard work and implementation of the new screening cards has made a tremendous difference in the quality of the newborn screening blood specimens received by the lab.

Of equal importance is getting newborn screening specimens to the laboratory in a timely manner. Procedures put in place to ensure prompt delivery of specimens result in the best possible outcomes for affected infants



**The Michigan Newborn Screening Program would like to acknowledge the following "Star" hospitals for 2003.**

### Late specimens

#### None

- ★ Clinton Memorial, St. Johns

#### Less than 0.5%

- ★ McLaren, Flint
- ★ Central Michigan, Mount Pleasant
- ★ Hayes Green Beach, Charlotte

### Unsatisfactory Specimens

#### None

- ★ Ionia County Memorial

#### Less than 0.5%

- ★ Hackley, Muskegon

## Revised Criteria for "Late" Specimens

The importance of prompt delivery of newborn screening specimens to the state laboratory can not be overstated. Some of the conditions that newborn screening identifies are life threatening without immediate medical intervention and treatment. As the Michigan Newborn Screening Program expands the number of disorders for which infants are screened, it is imperative that newborn screening specimens arrive in the laboratory for testing without delay. The quarterly Quality Assurance report, sent to hospitals, provides information about the number of late specimens received.



In anticipation of newborn screening expansion to include additional conditions that require rapid initiation of treatment, the criteria for what is considered a "late" specimen in the Quality Assurance Reports, will be changed from greater than 7 days to greater than 6 days from birth date to date received in the Newborn Screening Laboratory. This change will be effective in the next report reflecting specimens from the first quarter of 2004.

**We encourage all of our submitters to review their procedures to ensure a quick turn-around-time for newborn screening specimens.**

- ◆ Make sure that specimens are mailed within 24 hour of collection.
- ◆ Do not "Batch" specimens for bulk mailing.
- ◆ Mail specimens on Saturdays. Take cards to a postal box outside of the hospital if your mailroom is closed on the weekends.
- ◆ Obtain specimens when the infant is between 24-36 hour of age. Do not delay.

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## Michigan Newborn Screening Program

### Please Remember...

Complete and accurate information to calculate the age of the baby and the baby's weight in grams is essential to assign the correct screening result.



Please remove the submitter (yellow) copy before sending the specimen to the laboratory.  
**It is YOUR documentation!**

The free newborn screening educational course is now available online at [www.healthcare.mivu.org](http://www.healthcare.mivu.org). Check it out!



Always complete the "Newborn Screening Card Replacement Form" when returning blue cards for exchange. The form is available on our website at [www.mi.gov/newbornscreening](http://www.mi.gov/newbornscreening).  
**Make sure blood is removed from any card returned for exchange**

Do not use the biohazard sticker to seal down the overlay flap.



Always collect the newborn screen before discharge or transfer regardless of the age of the infant. The receiving hospital or mother desiring early discharge should be informed that a repeat specimen is needed within 7 days.

Mail newborn screening specimens every day!



**Always collect the newborn screen before transfusion of red blood cells.**

Transfusion will invalidate screening results necessitating further follow up for three months to rule out all disorders.

Do not put the number one in the box after the preprinted zeros for hospital code unless you are an NICU that wants negative newborn screening results sent to the unit.